



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
P.O. Box 45040, Olympia, Washington 98504-5040**

October 28, 2009

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration, would like to bring to your attention the enclosed proposed agency request legislation, Z-0780.2, Comprehensive Case Review in Child Welfare Cases.

This proposal would amend RCW 74.13.640. Current statute requires that the department conduct a child fatality review of any unexpected death of a minor in the state who is in the care of or receiving services from the department or a minor who had been in the care or received services from the department within one year preceding the minor's death.

This requires the department to conduct a review even when the death has been clearly accidental, such as a car accident or a death from a long-term medical condition. The review of fatalities that are clearly not related to child abuse and neglect requires significant time of Child Protective Services (CPS) program managers.

The ability to review near-fatalities would allow the department to identify current issues in the family and would enhance the identification of actions necessary to protect the child. These identified issues and actions that are necessary to protect the child in a particular case would be very beneficial in addressing similar issues in the general population of children.

The Children's Administration would like to invite you to a meeting to discuss this request legislation. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2009, 1:30 p.m., in the Lookout Conference Room on the 4th floor of OB-2. Directions to OB-2 are enclosed with this letter.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, please provide any comments or questions to David Del Villar Fox at (360) 902-8016 or email, foda300@dshs.wa.gov.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

David Del Villar Fox
Legislative Liaison
Children's Administration